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Letters to the Editor

"Eyes and Ears"

Your editorial commendation of the CIA ("Eyes and Ears," Nov. 4), with its vague reservation that this organization does raise "some philosophical questions for democratic theory," seems to me but another example of *The Post's* fuzzy liberalism, that discreet halfway house between the secure foothills of conservatism and the unexplored peak of radicalism.

Any intelligence agency, no matter how ineluctable its genesis or expedient its existence, is, by virtue of its secret nature, a flaw in the very democratic structure it is sworn to uphold. Paradoxical, but nothing is perfect, I am told; we have enemies without and within, and must retreat in order to advance.

Herblock is recuperating from a heart attack. Pending his return expected in January, cartoons by Edmund Duffy will appear in this space five days a week.

What happens, though, if the flaw should take over the diamond, seeking its own perfection? Does this potential exist in the CIA? Is it already in practice? Does the recent suicide of a CIA analyst testify the moral strain the CIA exerts on its workers? Is this a microcosm of the strain on the Republic itself?

These questions, among others, are those many readers of *The Post* require consideration of. Obviously, no government is innocent. But in choosing the lesser evil, may we at least not know the conditions of our choice, instead of a dim equivocation and a "warm salute" in the manner of a poet laureate's occasional verse?

L.
Silver Spring, Md.

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